

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of managing a telephone call from a calling station to a called station having a telephone service, where the called station is connected to a data network comprising the steps of:

5 forwarding the called station telephone service to an application server upon connection of the called station to the data network;

responsive to a telephone call from a calling station, sending a query to the called station via the data network requesting disposition of said telephone call; and

10 receiving a decision on the disposition of said telephone call from the called station.

2. A method as in claim 1, wherein said query includes an option of answering said telephone call over the data network.

15 3. A method as in claim 1, wherein said query includes an option of answering said telephone call using a public switched network.

4. A method as in claim 1, wherein said query includes an option of ignoring said telephone call.

5. A method as in claim 1, wherein said query includes an option of sending said telephone call to a voicemail system.

20 6. A method as in claim 1, wherein said query includes an option of forwarding said telephone call to a different telephone number.

7. A method as in claim 1, wherein said query includes an option of playing an announcement to the calling station.

25 8. A method as in claim 1, wherein said query includes an option of placing the calling station on hold.

9. A method as in claim 1, wherein said query includes an option of adding the calling station to a conference call bridge.

10. A method as in claim 1, wherein said query includes an option of hanging up said telephone call.

11. A method of managing a telephone call from a calling station to a called station having a telephone service, where the called station is capable of connection to the Internet comprising the steps of:

forwarding the called station telephone service to an intermediate server upon said called station launching an Internet connection;

responsive to a telephone call from a calling station received by said intermediate server, sending a communication to the called station including available calling station identification information and a query to the called station via the Internet requesting a decision from a list of call disposition options for said telephone call;

receiving a decision from the called station choosing at least one call disposition option; and

performing an action according to the call disposition option.

12. A method as in claim 11, wherein one of said list of call disposition options includes answering said telephone call over the Internet and said step of performing an action includes answering said telephone call over the Internet.

13. A method as in claim 11, wherein one of said list of call disposition options includes answering said telephone call using a public switched network and said step of performing an action includes answering said telephone call using a public switched network.

14. A method as in claim 11, wherein one of said list of call dispositions options includes ignoring said telephone call.

15. A method as in claim 11, wherein one of said list of call disposition options includes sending said telephone call to a voicemail system and said step of performing an action includes sending said telephone call to a voicemail system.

5 16. A method as in claim 11, wherein said list of call disposition options includes forwarding said telephone call to a different telephone number and said step of performing an action includes forwarding said telephone call to a different telephone number.

10 17. A method as in claim 11, wherein said list of call disposition options includes playing an announcement to the calling station and said step of performing an action includes playing an announcement to the calling station.

18. A method as in claim 11, wherein said list of call disposition options includes placing the calling station on hold and said step of performing an action includes placing the calling station on hold.

15 19. A method as in claim 11, wherein said list of call disposition options includes adding the calling station to a conference call bridge and said step of performing an action includes adding the calling station to a conference call bridge.

20 20. A method as in claim 11, wherein said list of call disposition options includes hanging up said telephone call and said step of performing an action includes hanging up said telephone call.

21. A method as in claim 11, wherein said list of call disposition options includes adding the available calling station identification information to a database and said step of performing an action includes adding the available calling station identification information to a database.

25 22. A method as in claim 11, wherein said list of call disposition options includes displaying information stored about the calling station and said step of performing an action includes displaying information stored about the calling station.

23. A method of managing a telephone call from a calling station to a called station having a telephone service, where the called station is capable of connection to the Internet comprising the steps of:

5 forwarding the called station telephone service to an application server upon said called station launching Internet connection software;

responsive to a telephone call from a calling station received by the application server, sending a communication to the called station including available calling station identification information and a query to the called station via the Internet requesting a decision from a list of call disposition options for said telephone call;

receiving a decision from the called station choosing at least one call disposition option; and

performing an action according to the call disposition option.

15 24. A method as in claim 23, wherein said communication is a screen message viewable by the called station.

25. A method as in claim 24, wherein said screen viewable message includes said available calling station identification information.

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